

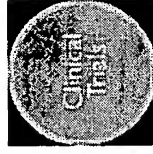
APPENDIX H



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The stages of primary liver cancer


The stage of a cancer tells the doctor how far it has grown. It is important because decisions about treatment are often made according to the stage of the cancer. The scans you have will give some information about the stage of your cancer. Staging shows whether the cancer is contained within the liver or whether it has spread elsewhere.

There are different ways of staging cancers. There is more detailed information about the stages of liver cancer on the [next page](#) and [more about staging](#) generally in the [About Cancer](#) section of CancerHelp UK.

The liver cancer stages are decided on the

- Size of the tumour
- Whether there is cancer in more than one lobe of the liver
- Whether the cancer has grown into or around major blood vessels – this is important because it is easier for cancer cells to get into the blood stream and spread if the tumour is closely involved with the blood vessels
- Whether cancer cells have spread to lymph nodes or other organs in the body.

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Stage 1

Your cancer is a single tumour measuring 2cm or smaller. There are no cancer cells in the blood vessels, lymph nodes or metastases in any other part of the body.

Stage 2

At this stage the cancer has not spread to your lymph nodes or any other part of your body. It can be one of the following

- A single tumour measuring 2cm across or less with blood vessels involved
- Several tumours that are all contained in one lobe of the liver. Each tumour measures 2cm across or less and no blood vessels are involved
- A single tumour that is larger than 2cm across with no blood vessels involved

Stage 3

This stage is divided into 2 further groups: stage 3A and 3B.

Stage 3A

At this stage the cancer has not spread to your lymph nodes or to any other part of your body. It can be one of the following

- A single tumour measuring more than 2cm across and with blood vessels involved
- Several tumours contained in one lobe of the liver. Each tumour measures 2cm or less and there are blood vessels involved
- Several tumours contained in one lobe of the liver, some of which measure more than 2cm across. There may be blood vessels involved

Stage 3B

The cancer can be any size and blood vessels may or may not be involved. What distinguishes this stage is that cancer cells have spread to nearby lymph nodes. The cancer has not spread to any other part of your body.

Stage 4

This stage is also divided into to further groups – A and B

Stage 4A

At this stage the cancer may have spread to any lymph nodes or spread to nearby parts of your body. It can be one of the following

- There is cancer in more than one lobe of the liver
- The cancer has grown into or around a main blood vessel - the hepatic or portal vein
- The cancer has spread to organs near the liver (not including the gallbladder)
- The cancer has spread to the sheet of body tissue that lines your abdomen (the peritoneum)

Stage 4B

The cancer is any size, and it has spread to other organs in your body or to lymph nodes that are further away from the liver.

